Seizure of Deer Antlers

*27. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Indian Express dated the 31st December, 1999, regarding seizure of three tonnes of deer antlers from poachers;

(b) if so, the facts of the seizure revealed after probe;

(c) how a massacre at such a huge scale went unnoticed; and

(d) the measures proposed to check such trade?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary investigations conducted by the State Government have revealed that 3 tonnes of antlers seized belong to old stock of shed antlers collected under license issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise. As reported by the State Government, the antlers seized belong to the old stock of shed antlers that is shed by the deer as a part of biological process.

(d) An order banning the collection of shed antlers has been issued by the Government of India.

Enrolment of Children in Primary Schools

*28. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children enrolled in primary schools during the period from 1991-92 to 1997-98;

(b) whether Government are aware that out of 1.5 crore additional